

Washing your car can be a fun summer activity or just another weekend chore – but did you know it can also be harmful to your local environment? This summer, whether you're looking for a simple soap and water wash or hiring a mobile detailing service, following these simple guidelines can help protect local waterways from harmful dirt, detergents, and motor oils that wash away as you scrub.

The most stream friendly way to wash your car is to take it to a professional car wash! They are required to treat/recycle their water and not let it run to our streams.

**If you're doing it yourself**, remember to:

- Wash your car on grass, gravel, or a permeable surface
- lock off storm drains with an insert, especially if you're hosting a car wash fundraiser
- Use biodegradable soaps
- Learn more by visiting [Clean Water Howard](#)

**If you hire a mobile detailing service** that will come to you, ensure that they're taking these important (and required!) precautions:

- Not allowing wash water to run off into storm drains
- Disposing of wash water in an indoor drain OR capturing it in their Vehicle to be properly disposed of off-site

Mobile detailing companies have to follow county code – you can check out the flyer distributed to Howard County vendors below!

# Attention Commercial Carwashers!

Protect our Streams and Waterways – It's the Law!



**Mobile  
Detailers  
Must:**

Discharge wastewater into an indoor drain  
OR collect and transport wash water off-site  
for treatment/disposal

Learn more about  
permitting, County code,  
potential fines for improper  
discharge, and more on the  
Bureau of Environmental  
Services site.

**You may NOT discharge  
wastewater directly into  
the storm drain.**

